
Marriage Ceremonies in Morocco by Edward Westermarck

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Marriage Ceremonies in Morocco. By EDWARD WESTERMARCK.
London: Macmillan. 1914. Pp. xii, 422.

Dr. Westermarck's latest book is designed to fill a gap in his *History of Human Marriage* in which he treated in very brief fashion the wedding ceremonies and, as he says, "failed to recognize their magical significance." In the present volume, he describes, with a wealth of detail, the wedding customs of a single people, the Muhammedan natives of Morocco, selecting as representative one tribe each from the several groups. Starting from a description of the customs as observed by himself and related to him by natives, he seeks to interpret them, so far as he can, with the aid of the native explanations. While he does not adopt Mr. Ernest Crawley's theory that "ceremonies of marriage are intended to neutralise the dangers supposed to be connected with all contact between man and woman and with the state of marriage itself, as also to make the union safe, prosperous, and happy," he does find these as the root-ideas in practically all the marriage-rites; that is, a prophylactic or purificatory purpose to ward off the dangers which seem to be bound up with marriage and sexual intercourse; and a desire to bring positive benefits to the union such as wealth, fecundity, and domestic peace.

It goes without saying that any contribution by Dr. Westermarck to the field of sociology and anthropology will be most valuable, and this is a careful study based upon six years of residence and investigation among the native tribes of Morocco.

In the notes at the end of the book, Dr. Westermarck reprints his article, published in *Folklore*, 1911, replying to Dr. Frazer's criticism of his theory of the origin of the prohibition of marriage between kindred and exogamy which amplifies the position he had already taken in his previous writings.

Einfluss von Erbllichkeit und Umwelt auf das Wachstum. By FRANZ BOAS. *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie*. 1913. Vol. 45. Pp. 615-627.

Professor Boas in this article on the influence of heredity and environment on growth, tries to determine the inherited differences in characteristic periods of development, the influence of environment upon the rate of development, and the possibility of separating the two factors. He starts with the assumption that the longer any part of the body takes to develop the greater will probably be the influence of environment upon its develop-